



## **STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SECURITY: BY THE NUMBERS**

According to a recent AP/Ipsos survey, the percentage of Americans who believe, “the Social Security program in its present form will run out of money at some point to pay all of the promised benefits”<sup>1</sup>:

**70 percent**

Number of years from now the cost of paying Social Security benefits will exceed the tax revenues generated by the program:

**12**

Number of baby boomers approaching retirement age:

**75 million**

The percentage of promised benefits that the current Social Security system can afford to pay in 2041:

**74 percent**

For younger workers, the rate of return the current Social Security system will provide on the dollars they contribute to the system:

**Less than 2 percent**

According to SSA actuaries’ predictions, the average rate of return that a personal retirement account invested in a conservative mix of bonds and stocks would provide:

**4.6 percent**

The amount that a young worker making \$35,000 a year would have upon retirement if allowed to invest 4 percent of payroll taxes in a conservative mix of bonds and stocks:

**Nearly \$250,000**

<sup>1</sup> AP/Ipsos poll of 1,000 adults, conducted May 2-4, 2005. [View the poll results.](#)